

THE EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF  
**SAUDI ARABIA**  
WASHINGTON, DC



سفارة  
المملكة العربية السعودية  
واشنطن



## SAUDI WOMEN IN **SPORTS**

These materials are distributed by LS2group on behalf of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia.

Additional information is on file with the Department of Justice, Washington, DC





In the last 3 years  
there has been  
**great progress** in  
the area of  
women and sports

There have been **significant policy changes**



Increased accessibility  
to events and programs



Global representation  
of Saudi



Hosting of international  
sporting events for women



Increase in professional  
Saudi athletes



Emergence of women on  
national teams in multiple  
sports



Appointment of women in  
sports leadership roles

Since **2015**, there has  
been a significant increase  
in the number of women  
who are physically active  
and playing sport

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## Examples of POLICY SHIFTS



### Licensing for Women's Gyms

In **2017**, the General Sports Authority (GSA) announced the launch of **women's gyms licensing**. Previously, only male gyms were granted official licences.

A platform was developed to issue gyms licenses, which includes online application, licensing manuals and payment features

As of mid-2019,  
there are

**446**

licensed women's gyms  
across 13 Saudi regions

### Physical Education (PE) for Girls in Schools & Universities



Before 2017, PE was not included in public schools curriculum for girls. In 2017, PE **became mandatory in girl's schools**. Since then the Ministry of Education has taken these steps to implement the decision

Designed a PE curriculum for girls

Developed a training program for  
teachers to deliver sports programs

Introduced a 4-year PE degree in many  
universities across the Kingdom



### Access to Stadiums

Historically women were prohibited from entering stadiums. In October 2017 the law was amended to **allow women access**. The first sporting event in a stadium where men and women both attended was a football match in Jeddah in January 2018.

Today the GSA  
are building  
**11 NEW  
STADIUMS**  
around the country for  
the Saudi public  
(both men and women)





Examples of

## INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN SPORTING EVENTS



### FAMILY ACTIVITY DAY

DECEMBER 2017

A multi-sports program that started in 2017 that allowed the entire family to play sports together (20k -130k participants per event)



### FIRST WOMEN-ONLY 5K MARATHON

MARCH 2018

More than 1,500 women took part in a race in Riyadh



### GIRLS SCHOOL PROGRAM

MARCH 2018

A program in several schools in Riyadh and Jeddah to promote physical activity for girls (~5k participants)



### EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION

2018

Since the approval of women riding locally in June 2019, the number of female riders registered with the Equestrian Federation has increased from 48 (number recorded in 2018) to 264.



### WOMEN CYCLING RACE

OCTOBER 2019

Women's cycling races took place in Riyadh in October 2019, and in Jeddah and Khobar in December 2019 to promote women's participation in cycling



### WORLDWIDE CANE DAY

OCTOBER 2019

Walking event held for the blind and partially blind in Riyadh (~50 male & female participants)



### BALL BOY/GIRL PROGRAM

DECEMBER 2019

Program to train 30 ball boys and 10 ball girls for the tennis event in Diriyah

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Examples of

## INCREASE IN WOMEN PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES



### DALMA MALHAS

2010

Equestrian (individual jumping) Bronze medalist in 2010 Youth Olympics. Rode in Saudi's first mixed gender equestrian event in December 2019



### YASMIN AL QAHTANI

2013

First Saudi professional female rock climber and coach



### MARIAM FARDOUS

MAY 2015

First Arab to dive in the North Pole and the third woman in the world to do so



### LUBNA AL OMAIR

2016

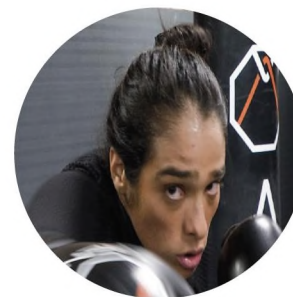
The first Saudi woman to fence for the Kingdom at the 2016 Olympics



### SARA ATTAR

2016

The first female track and field Saudi Olympian



### RASHA AL KHAMIS

MARCH 2018

First certified Saudi female boxer, who also achieved a Guinness World Record



### REEMA JUFFALI

NOVEMBER 2018

First Saudi woman to drive competitively, driving in the support race to the Formula E championship, the I-PACE eTROPHY



### AMAL AL SHAHRANI

AUGUST 2019

Saudi Arabia's first female to participate in the Reebok CrossFit Games in USA

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## Examples of **INCREASE IN WOMEN'S TEAM SPORTS**



### **FEMALE DEAF BOWLING TEAM** 2016

First deaf sports female team in the sport of bowling established by the Jeddah Deaf Club



### **FEMALE ICE HOCKEY TEAM** 2017

First Saudi professional female ice hockey group from Jeddah seeking to become an official team



### **ECO-MARATHON TEAM** APRIL 2019

First Saudi female team to participate in the Shell Eco-marathon Asia, held in Malaysia



### **FEMALE BOWLING TEAM** AUGUST 2019

First female bowling team to represent Saudi Arabia in the World Bowling Women's Championship



### **SPECIAL OLYMPICS FLOORBALL TEAM** NOVEMBER 2019

First female team with intellectual disability to represent Saudi Arabia in floorball regional competitions



### **FEMALE PARALYMPIC TEAM** NOVEMBER 2019

Female para athletics team for the first time at the Dubai World Para Athletics Grand Prix





## Examples of **INCREASE IN WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN SPORTS FEDERATIONS**

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### **ASEEL AL HAMAD**

DECEMBER 2017

First woman board member of the Saudi Arabian Motor Federation and a member of the International Automobile Federation



### **NOORA AL TURKI**

FEBRUARY 2018

First Saudi woman appointed Vice President of the Saudi Arabian Shooting Federation



### **YASMIN AL QAHTANI**

MARCH 2018

First woman appointed as the Executive Director of the Saudi Arabian Climbing and Hiking Federation



### **RAZAN AL BAKER**

MARCH 2018

A member of the board of directors at the Saudi Arabian Bowling Federation



### **AMAL BAATIA**

MAY 2018

Board member of the Saudi Arabian Fitness and Wellness Federation



### **ADWA AL ARIFI**

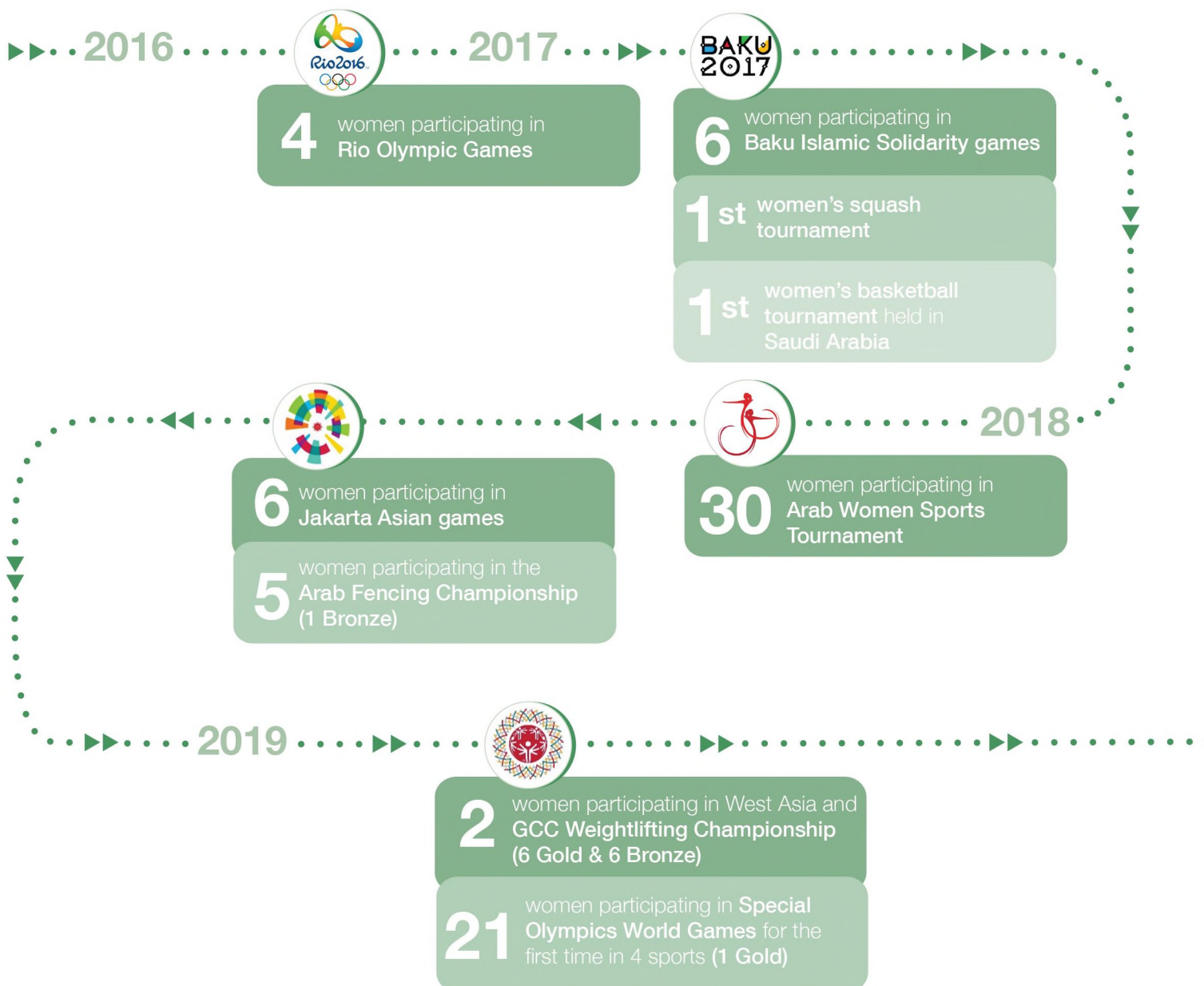
OCTOBER 2018

First woman board member and Head of CSR committee at the Saudi Arabian Football Federation

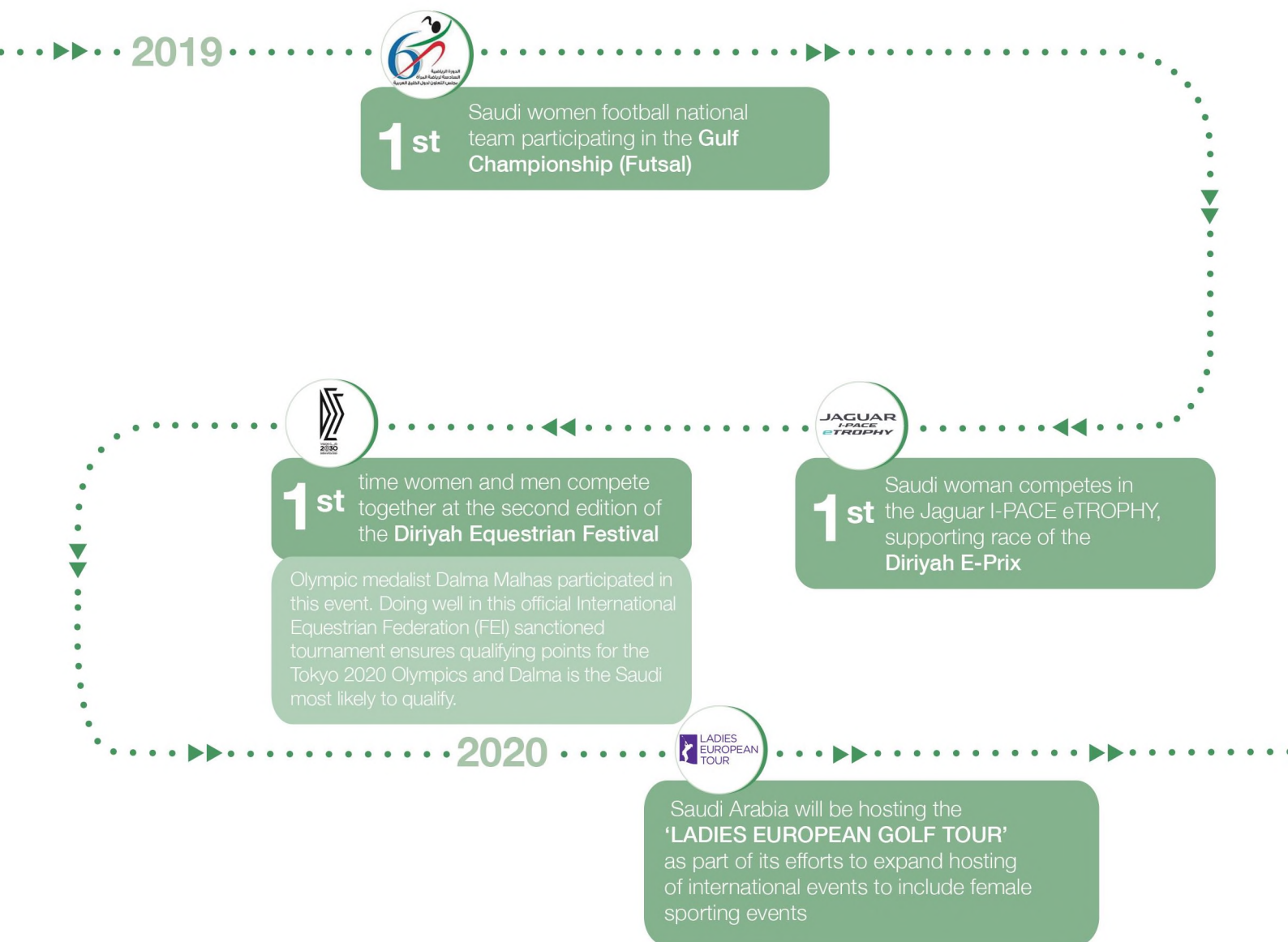




Saudi Arabia  
has seen  
an increase in  
female participation  
in local, regional,  
and international  
competitions







### Overview

- The Ladies European Tour is a professional golf tour for women which operates tournaments across five continents globally
- Most of the players on the tour are European, with members from more than 40 different countries
- Saudi Arabia will host its first Ladies European Tour golf tournament in March 2020
- The announcement was made on 31 October 2019 by the President of the Saudi Arabian Golf Federation, at the Future Investment Initiative in Riyadh

### Impact

- This event aims to develop golf in the Kingdom and promote women's participation
- It is expected to contribute positively to the sports, tourism, and entertainment sectors in Saudi Arabia





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